

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Original). A method for making a wound dressing including an absorbent core and an elastomeric gel facing layer adhered thereto, said method including the steps of:

depositing uncured elastomeric gel onto a perforation device to form a discrete layer of elastomeric gel thereon;

curing the elastomeric gel layer to a partially cured state; and

applying the absorbent core to a surface of the partially cured elastomeric gel layer.

Claim 2 (Original). The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of forming a plurality of apertures in the elastomeric gel layer prior to applying the elastomeric gel layer to the absorbent core.

Claim 3 (Original). The method according to claim 1, wherein the perforation device includes a plurality of perforating elements defined in a pattern, the perforating elements forming a plurality of apertures in the elastomeric gel layer.

Claim 4 (Original). The method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of heating the carrier surface and the perforating elements prior to depositing the elastomeric gel onto the carrier surface.

Claim 5 (Original). The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of maintaining the heat of the perforation device when the absorbent core is applied onto the partially cured elastomeric gel layer.

Claim 6 (Original). The method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of exerting pressure onto a surface of the absorbent core opposite the surface in contact with the elastomeric gel layer.

Claim 7 (Original). The method according to claim 1, wherein the partially cured elastomeric gel layer is a cross-linked silicone.

Claim 8 (Original). The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of forming a plurality of apertures in the elastomeric gel layer with a plurality of perforating elements after the partially cured elastomeric gel layer has been applied to the absorbent core.

Claim 9 (Original). The method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of fully curing the elastomeric gel layer after the plurality of apertures have been formed.

Claim 10 (Original). The method according to claim 1, wherein a silicone primer is applied to the absorbent core before application thereof to the elastomeric gel layer.

Claim 11 (Original). The method according to claim 1, wherein the perforation device includes a generally planar surface with a plurality of discrete perforating elements extending therefrom wherein the perforating elements extend through the uncured elastomeric gel layer.

Claim 12 (Original). The method according to claim 11, wherein the perforating elements are heated and maintained at a suitable temperature for forming apertures in the elastomeric gel layer.

Claim 13 (Original). The method according to claim 3, wherein the perforating elements are arranged in a predetermined pattern.

Claim 14 (Original). The method according to claim 3, wherein the perforating elements have a cross-section shape selected from the group consisting of circular, square, triangular, elliptical, rectilinear and combinations thereof.

Claim 15 -20 (Canceled).